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Judge Kolar Kottely
c/o Attorney Renatta Hesse
Department of Justice, Antitrust Division
601 D St, NW - Ste 1200
Washington, DC 20530

January 28, 2002
VIA FACSIMILE: 202--616-9937

Dear Judge Kolar Kottely

I am writing to express my overall concern with for the technology sector with the pursuance of the Microsoft antitrust case.

I am the resident of a rural town and owner of a small online business. I am able to conduct business with customers all over the world thanks to the innovation and developments in the technology and telecommunications industries.

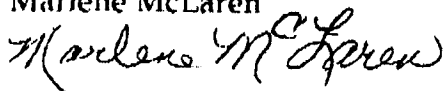
What I don't see is the lack of competition in the high-tech industry addressed by this case. Over the last decade the number of jobs in the software industry has grown from 290,000 to close to some 860,000. The 24,000 software companies in 1990 can be compared to the 57,000 software companies today. The growth in this industry is like nothing we've seen in recent history, yet the case against Microsoft was brought on by an alleged lack of competition in the market.

In just the past few years the number of software companies and employees have nearly tripled. This year the software industry alone will add nearly \$20 billion in surplus to America's balance of trade. Microsoft is on a list of indicators for the Dow Jones Average and is considered a market bellwether.

These factors do not add up to a lack of competition in the industry. They are instead indicators that the high-tech industry is a flourishing, rapidly growing industry that changes so quickly that tomorrow's Linux will replace today's Microsoft.

Continued litigation in this case will only slow competition and growth in the industry. I hope you see fit to sign off on the fair settlement in this case.

Marlene McLaren



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